The Dewan then opened the session with the following

ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,

Once more I have the honour and the privilege, under the gracious command of Her Highness the Maharani Regent, to welcome you as cordially to this session, as I welcomed you to the last session of the Assembly. I was unavoidably called away for two months during the year, during which period Rao Bahadur R. Krishna Pillai, the Devaswom Commissioner, held office as Dewan. For the rest, I am responsible for the year's administration. I shall endeavour to indicate the general trend of affairs and shall point to the more important measures that were attempted and effected since we last met.

2. The results of the year's activities are set out in the Administration Report which has today been placed in your hands. Although the form of the book and the manner of presentation of the facts it embodies have been somewhat changed and although the statistical tables have been relegated to a more appropriate volume, I think you will find that the present report gives you all the information you may require.

3. **Action on Representations.**—I have heard the insinuation that the Government do not pay much heed to the representations put up at this Assembly and that greater attention is devoted to matters pressed upon the authorities in another House. That is unfair. Those of you who assisted me at the last session of this Assembly may remember that I took care to explain the position, the intentions and the difficulties of the Government as fully as I possibly could in relation to each representation. The disposal of the questions raised and of the requests preferred did not end with the session. During the year that has elapsed, Heads of Departments, District Officers and Secretaries have been unremitting in their efforts to enable the Government to meet your wishes. Their toil has not been in vain; and you will see from the statement which I have had prepared and which has been furnished to each of you, that a considerable number of representations remaining over from the last session have since been settled. Others are in the course of disposal; and where the Government have found themselves unfortunately precluded from complying with your requests, believe me it was only after anxious consideration that, for good and sufficient reason, a negative answer has had to be returned. Rest assured that every single representation is examined.

4. **The Ruling Family.**—An occurrence of great joy to all in the State was the birth, on the 23rd of October, 1926, of a daughter to Her Highness the Maharani Regent. That one more Princess should take her place in the Ruling Family brought real pleasure to the people of Travancore.

An event of much importance which took place the other day was the *Tirumadampu* ceremony of His Highness the Maharaja. The investiture of His Highness with the sacred thread has significations of deep import, both spiritual and temporal. As such, the occasion was celebrated with pomp and circumstance befitting His Highness's position and with all those solemn rites so devoutly observed by our deeply religious Ruling House. His Highness has made marked progress in his education and the devoted attention and fostering care bestowed upon the guidance of his studies by the Maharani-mother and by his tutors were responded to in a manner which has evoked the high commendation of all who have come in contact with our future Ruler.

5. **Season and Trade.**—The rainfall during the earlier part of the year was good and the harvest satisfactorily reflected favourable seasonal conditions. But latterly an insufficient and belated north-east monsoon had depressing effects upon the Kumbham rice crop, especially in South Travancore. Our principal industry, cocoanut cultivation, made a good recovery during the year and the trade in the products of the palm showed on the whole an advance notwithstanding slight set-backs in certain of its commodities mainly due to competitive disadvantages. To remedy

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